

Preservation Corner by John P. McAnaw

UPDATE ON THE BRISTOE STATION BATTLEFIELD PROJECT

The intent of this article is to cover events that occurred on the CENTEX Tract of 341 acres during period 15 August – 19 October 2003. This tract includes much of the core area of the Bristoe Station Battlefield. Although the boundary lines have not been finalized, CENTEX intends to donate 127 acres of the tract to the Civil War Preservation Trust and develop the remaining 214 acres.

Estimates of Civil War burials on the CENTEX Tract range from 500-600 soldiers. The vast majority of the soldiers buried there are Confederate. With only a few exceptions, these soldiers lie in unmarked graves. Most of these soldiers died on what is now the CENTEX Tract during the months of August and September 1861. Ironically, a number of Confederate regiments were moved in late July and early August 1861 to a sprawling encampment area vicinity Bristoe Station to get the units away from disease infested areas. Perhaps the worst area for breeding disease was the First Manassas Battlefield after the Confederate victory on 21 July 1861. The regimental camps vicinity Bristoe Station quickly, in August 1861, became known collectively as Camp Jones. Some of these camps and cemeteries are on the CENTEX Tract. Also on 27 August 1862 a fierce engagement between elements of MG Richard Ewell's Division and MG Joseph Hooker's Division was, in part, fought on CENTEX property north of the O&A Railroad tracks. Confederate losses were about 200 while Union losses approached 500.

The organization in charge of the search for Confederate graves on the CENTEX Tract is the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) headed by Commander Robert "Red" Barbour of Roanoke, VA. The role of the BRCWRT is to support the SCV during the duration of the search for Civil War graves. According to the agreement between CENTEX and the SCV, the latter organization has 120 days, beginning 8 July 2003, to conduct its investigation of possible burial sites on the CENTEX Tract. In other words, the SCV has, unless an extension is granted by CENTEX, until *Veterans Day, 11 November 2003*, to complete its search. And that "Day of Reckoning" is fast approaching.

The information, provided above is intended to give

the reader a general understanding of the situation on the CENTEX Tract at Bristoe Station. If you ask any of the BRCWRT members involved in the search for Civil War graves, whether or not they enjoyed their time in the field, I will wager that the answer is "Yes!" Certainly, it is an educational experience. And now that we are finally breaking ground with a bulldozer and a backhoe interest has picked up. I would also like to add that during every one of the workdays scheduled by "Red" Barbour at the CENTEX Tract, there were more members of our Round Table present than any other organization. We have made a positive mark in the effort to locate Civil War graves, even though the value of motivated volunteers has been under-appreciated.

On 15-16 August 2003 the following BRCWRT volunteers worked on the 214-acre portion of the CENTEX Tract that will be developed. (Some volunteers worked both days):

Kevin Anastas	Blake Myers
Charlie Balch	Bud Porter
Ron Beavers	Phil Pruna
Mike Block	Bev Regeimbal
Harriett Condon	Mike Shannon
John DePue	Chuck Siegel
Mark Knowles	Chris Soester
Dale Maschino	Keith Young
John McAnaw	

The majority of the labor was devoted to cutting vegetation and laying down white plastic panels that delineated the boundary line between that portion of the CENTEX property (127 acres) that will be turned over to the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) and the 214 acres that will be developed. Also, white panels were used to mark possible cemetery locations and other likely Civil War sites on the CENTEX Tract.

On Saturday, 16 August, Ms. Linda Wheeler of *The Washington Post* interviewed key individuals present on the CENTEX Tract at Bristoe Station. Her informative article regarding the search for Confederate

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graves vicinity Bristoe Station, complete with photographs, appeared in the next day's edition. Round table member Mark Knowles was in one of those photographs along with Robert "Red" Barbour of the Sons of Confederate Veterans from Roanoke. The thermal imaging mission flown by helicopter that date was not successful. A severe afternoon thunderstorm cut the flying time from two hours to one.

Since early August, an archaeologist paid by the SCV, and several of his volunteer associates have worked, off and on, at sites in the buffer zone between land that will be turned over to the CWPT and that which will be developed by CENTEX. Due to a series of unfortunate events, no thermal imaging missions were flown between 16 August 2003 and 27 September 2003.

The wife of "Red" Barbour of the SCV unexpectedly passed away in August. Thus he was not available for part of that month. Also adverse weather canceled another thermal imaging helicopter flight. Additionally, the last minute non-availability of a thermal imaging expert from Roanoke resulted in the cancellation of still another helicopter flight.

Finally, a long awaited thermal imaging helicopter flight was flown on 27 September. Unfortunately the results of this flight were inconclusive and of little value in discovering any unmarked graves.

At this point, permit me to remind the reader of several points that bear repeating:

No one is allowed on the CENTEX Tract without proper badges and the presence of "Red" Barbour, who as stated previously lives in Roanoke, VA.

By 1 October 2003 the availability of the licensed archaeologist was limited to only Saturdays and Sundays. The focus of his effort was the 50' buffer zone along the tentative boundary between CWPT and CENTEX.

The archaeologist must be present whenever a search for gravesites was conducted.

Until later on in October 2003, no ground was broken by earth moving equipment in the area that will be developed by CENTEX.

Now allow me to address the events that occurred during period 1-19 October 2003.

On 11 and 12 October 2003 considerable progress was made in the northeast part of the CENTEX Tract. Thanks to the availability of a bulldozer and a skilled operator, cuts ranging in depth from 1' to 2 ½' were made into the soil as the bulldozer created swaths across the terrain. While no graves were found within the limited bulldozer cuts, evidence of the Civil War was present. Shell fragments, believed to be from munitions fired by Union artillery units during the Battle of Bristoe Station were found at numerous locations. Time prevents me from covering the two-day effort in greater detail but it was time well spent. BRCWRT members "Present for Duty-Equipped" on 11 and/or 12 October were as follows:

Charlie Balch	Dale Maschino
Ron Beavers	John McAnaw
Saundra Cox	Blake Myers
Howard Ewing	John Pearson
John DePue	Bev Regeimbal
Ken Jones	Mike Shannon
Mark Knowles	Ed Wenzel
Drew Lavan	Keith Young
Lyle Loveall	

See the separate article re the ceremony on 14 October 2003 at Bristoe Station Battlefield.

On Sunday, 19 October 2003, "Red" Barbour, the project archaeologist and a handful of volunteers continued the search for Civil War graves in the northeast section of the CENTEX Tract. A backhoe was used in the search. Unfortunately, o/a 1100 hours the backhoe sprung a hydraulic leak that knocked it out of action for the remainder of the day. Efforts to get a replacement failed. A considerable amount of Civil War road mapping was conducted that Sunday. The weather and scenery were magnificent, so, all in all, I would not call this day a failure. BRCWRT members present that date were:

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Nancy Anwyll	John McAnaw
Ken Jones	Bev Regeimbal
Mark Knowles	Keith Young

Summing up, a lot of work remains to be done prior to 11 November. How much the SCV and supporting organizations accomplish will be dependent on the availability of well-serviced, earth moving equipment. On 21 October 2003 I received word that we will have a large bulldozer with us on the CENTEX Tract for the weekend of 25-26 October. I hope we have a large turnout of BRCWRT volunteers. We have only three 'work' weekends left, and they must be used productively.

Check the BRCWRT website for planned activities at Bristoe Station.

— John

BRISTOE CEREMONY by John P. McAnaw

BRISTOE STATION BATTLEFIELD 14 OCTOBER

On the 140th Anniversary of the Battle of Bristoe Station (14 October 2003) a simple ceremony was conducted on cited battlefield. The event was held on a rain-swept ridge near where the guns of McIntosh's Confederate Artillery Battalion were deployed on that fateful day. Of note, five of McIntosh's guns were captured by Union infantrymen during this battle.

Approximately twenty individuals attended the ceremony including:

- ▶ Robert "Red" Barbour, Commander, Fincastle Rifles Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Roanoke, VA.
- ▶ Keith Young, President, BRCWRT
- ▶ SCV Color Guard from the Fincastle Rifles Camp
- ▶ Color Guard from Veterans of Foreign War 'Blue and Gray' Post 8469, Fairfax Station, VA
- ▶ Irish Bagpiper James O'Brien from the Father Corby Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians
- ▶ Rob Hodge, preservationist and film producer

In addition to Keith Young, other Round Table members included Bob Hickey, Mark Knowles, John Pearson, Bev Regeimbal and Ed Wenzel.

SCV Commander "Red" Barbour made a short address to the small group of dedicated preservationists. He informed the group that this ceremony on 14 October 2003 was undoubtedly the first ceremony ever held on the Bristoe Station Battlefield to honor those who fought and fell on that hallowed ground. Thus, this was a truly memorable event.

Prior to the end of this brief ceremony, Bev Regeimbal was accorded the honor of helping to lay the commemorative wreath.

— John



EXCERPTS from "Civil War Spoken Here"

A Dictionary of Mispronounced Peoples, Places and Things of the 1860s

— Submitted by Maureen R. Quinn

I love words — especially interesting words, word variations and their origins. And there's something about learning the proper pronunciation and spelling of words that has always grabbed my interest

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